

Delta Solutions Program (DSP) for Longer-term Follow-Up

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Program Rationale: Major water policy changes in California have always required an extensive technical effort to develop promising alternatives and implement solutions effectively. We propose launching a long-term effort, the Delta Solutions Program (DSP). Any solution chosen over the next 18 months as part of the current policy process (Delta Vision and BDCP) will necessarily be broad in its contours. The support of a competent technical group will be required to follow up on important details and to refine and develop options and information for policy discussions. A comprehensive technical effort will require several years. Steps to launch it must begin immediately.

Necessary Program Elements:

- A) Director of Delta Solutions Program, a technical person in CBDA different from the CALFED Lead Scientist
- B) Business manager in charge of accounts and accounting
- C) 3-5 senior technical staff
- D) 2-6 junior technical staff
- E) 1-2 accounts clerks
- F) Board of Directors – half political and half technical
- G) Technical Board – agency and non-agency technical people
- H) Standing contractual and technical relationships with major technical organizations in the system. Work done at these organizations must report primarily to the DSP and collaborate with the DSP. Some of this work can be outsourced to be done entirely in turnkey fashion according to contract specifications, but most will have to be done by people partially or wholly assigned to work with or at the DSP.
- I) Discretionary funding (~\$5 million/year), plus additional stakeholder and agency effort

Initial Technical Efforts:

- 1) Desirable Delta ecological conditions– biota, land, water, variability
- 2) In-Delta solutions – islands, levees, internal hydrodynamics, fish, habitat
- 3) Export solutions – conveyance, fish screens, near-Delta storage, exporter adaptation
- 4) Institutions – economics and finance, assurances, cost allocation
- 5) System integration and operations

Initial Products and Deadlines:

- 1) Preliminary panel reports on short-term studies – November 2007 - March 2008
- 2) Development plan for long-term solutions – March 2008
- 3) Information, considerations, and evaluations of promising variants – June 2010
- 4) Evaluations of Preferred Strategy variants – April 2012

Some questions:

- 1) How should this effort relate to other efforts (IEP, ISB, etc.)?
- 2) Who oversees and funds this program? How is quality control provided?